



KINDERWORLD KINDERGARTEN @ HANOI TOWERS

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Christmas break and the New Year are fast approaching after a very exciting 2022. We have had a very busy time and the months have sped past with all the children thoroughly enjoying the long-awaited return to school life.

This month we have had lots of visitors to the school. We had a visit from our sister school KIK@ The Manor to celebrate MindUP wellness day which linked to our new USA MindUP programme (<https://mindup.org/>).

In addition, we had lots of parents/guardians visit the school for our first “Stay and play” session. This session is aimed at enabling adults and their children to play and learn together to improve attachments, strengthen bonds and enhance the child’s overall development. In studies (Early Years Scotland UK) the positive impact of joint sessions was discovered, enabling parents/guardians more tools to work together with their child as well as enabling them to learn more about what we do at school and how this can be used to work with children at home.

We are looking forward to our Christmas festivities – our Christmas Charity Fair and our Christmas Concert so a busy December now awaits us!

Stephanie C. Mills  
Head of Kindergarten

## **Upcoming Important Dates:**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Fair at SIS @ Van Phuc

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Concert - Lobby of Hanoi Towers

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** - Christmas and New Year Break

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** - School resumes



# News around the Classrooms

## K1 – PHONICS

The K1 classes are making great strides and developing their phonics awareness through the use of the British Letterland programme.

Letterland is a unique, phonics-based approach to teaching reading, writing and spelling.



The Letterland characters transform plain black letter shapes into child-friendly pictograms which are easily recognisable to the children.

We learn about the letters and sounds through a range of different activities and learning styles, such as music, actions, alliteration, movement, song, art, games and role-play.

In this way, all the children can connect with and learn about phonics in a fun and natural setting.



When working with your child at home with the alphabet, please use the phonetic sounds instead of the letter names – this link provides the phonetic sounds and the accompanying



Letterland actions to assist you with this: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1WUuWsVV60&list=PLgS1d0n\\_SUgUKWhzrQavhBTgbWv1QNbKq&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1WUuWsVV60&list=PLgS1d0n_SUgUKWhzrQavhBTgbWv1QNbKq&index=1)

## PREP ART AND CRAFTS



Art and craft is an excellent subject to develop creativity and imagination and a fantastic tool to enable the students express themselves freely.

In addition to developing self-expression, art and crafts develop fine motor skills – an essential skill to develop for handwriting. In addition, it develops concentration and patience, with more complex projects

encouraging organisational skills as well as planning and foresight.

In Prep, we love using paints, pencils, glue, and experimenting with a wide variety of materials. Besides many other art activities, one of our favourites was abstract printing. For this activity, we went and chose leaves from the garden and then used these to carefully print.



Every morning, we start our days with arts and crafts. Some of these projects are more detailed, and we continue them over a number of days – each day working on a new aspect. Others are short and last only the one lesson – with the aim being to introduce the children to as wide a range of art techniques and styles as possible.

**MEDICAL VISIT TO HANOI TOWERS**



A team of six doctors visited Hanoi Towers to give all pupils a basic medical check. It includes a check on student's height and weight, examination of eyes, ears, nose, throat and teeth and listening to the heart and lungs.

With individual booklets to record progress, pupils

enjoyed going from station to station to have the various checks.



**EXPLORING THE 5 SENSES IN PRE NURSERY**

In term two, Prenursery class learnt about the five senses.

When working with the senses of touch and smell we

explored these senses with a walk in the school garden. Children were encouraged to touch the different flowers, leaves and plants and to compare and contrast the smells of the different types of flowers.



We reinforced this back in the classroom by looking closely at some flowers – experimenting to see if we could identify the different coloured flowers through smell only.

The sense of touch was explored in art and craft activities, from making handprints to exploring with bubble wrap finger painting in which

children used fingers wrapped up to print with paint.



**MINDFULNESS WITH KIK @ THE MANOR**



Prep had a wonderful visit from KIK @ The Manor relating to our USA wellness programme - MindUP.

We practised Powerful listening, using a chime.

With this game, we help the students to focus on one sound and, at the same time, calm down.



We followed this with a “head massage circle”. During the massage, we asked our new friends if they liked it, how they felt, and shared our feelings. This activity taught us how to share our emotions and feelings and listen to our friends.



Our practical activities were in two groups – one colouring Mandalas, which helped students focus and calm down. The other group created colourful calming jars with glitter and glue. These jars are a great tool to relax and meditate – they are shaken when we feel upset, angry, or nervous and focus on how the glitter settles, breathing calmly.

All these activities helped us to be more mindful and learn various ways to calm down when we feel negative emotions.

**FIRE DRILL**

It is important that regular fire drill practices are carried out in case of an emergency, so in November we participated in a whole building fire practice.

In order to get the children ready for the practice, we talked about what would happen and practised forming and walking in lines.



As a result, they were most excited when the time came for the fire practice and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. All of the children were able to form orderly lines and keep together as we went out for the fire drill.

